

Contact: Emily Duncan IHCDA (317)234-1745 eduncan@ihcda.in.gov September 21, 2012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Lt. Governor Skillman Recognizes Excellence in Affordable Housing at Annual Statewide Conference

INDIANAPOLIS- Lt. Governor Becky Skillman recently recognized recipients of the 2012 Excellence in Affordable Housing awards which honor Hoosiers for their impact on communities throughout the state. Recipients were announced at the Annual Statewide Conference on Housing and Community Economic Development sponsored by the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority (IHCDA) and the Indiana Association for Community Economic Development (IACED).

"Each year I am reminded of the caliber of partners throughout Indiana who are working on innovative projects that are improving communities," said Lt. Governor Skillman. "Our award winners deserve praise for their community and economic development efforts."

At the annual statewide conference, IHCDA and IACED, along with their award sponsors and colleagues, recognize organizations and individuals for their outstanding projects and services. This year's awards are:

Lt. Governor's Award for Excellence in Affordable Housing and Community Development- Rural

Recipient: Town of Walkerton for Dogwood Estates, Walkerton

The Town of Walkerton saw a need for revitalization where 84 blighted homes stood on 13 acres and replaced them with 40 newly-constructed, attractive, energy-efficient homes in the redesigned Dogwood Estates. The new infrastructure and life it has given to the Walkerton community has made social and economic impacts which will benefit the town for years to come.

Lt. Governor's Award for Excellence in Affordable Housing and Community Development- Urban

Recipient: City of Lafayette for Glen Acres and Chatham Square, Lafayette

The City of Lafayette identified a neighborhood that had become so blighted that many residents were unwilling to walk through it to take advantage of the beautiful Munger Park. The City, in collaboration with the private sector, local organizations, and the Lafayette community, brought in federal and state resources to stabilize the Glen Acres Neighborhood. The anchor of the neighborhood is Chatham Square, a newly constructed 99 unit apartment complex serving income qualified residents and 64 units serving those at or below 50% of area median income. Glen Acres and Chatham have become community assets, and residents take full advantage of the park.

Additional awards presented at the Conference include:

Key Award for Services Program of the Year

Recipient: East 10th Street United Methodist Children and Youth Center

Robert O. Zdenek Staff Member of the Year Award

Recipient: M. Ann Helmke, Vincent Village

Michael Carroll Community Economic Development Leadership Award

Recipient: Mark Lindenlaub, Housing Partnerships, Inc. and Aging and Community Services of South Central Indiana

The winners were selected by a panel of judges with expertise in the housing and community economic development fields. Nominees were selected by a separate committee and were judged based upon their impact, initiative, collaboration, and financial soundness and creativity in furthering community economic development throughout Indiana.

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The Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority (IHCDA), chaired by Lt. Governor Becky Skillman, creates housing opportunity, generates and preserves assets, and revitalizes neighborhoods by investing financial and technical resources in the development efforts of qualified partners throughout Indiana. IHCDA believes that growing Indiana's economy starts at home. For more information, visit www.ihcda.in.gov.

For updates from Lt. Governor Skillman and the agencies she oversees, please sign up at www.lg.in.gov.